

romantic history never frows -dull by repetition.
 For this is that serpent column of Corinthian brass which was dedicated to Apollo by the thankful and exultant Greeks after the battle of Vlutjea, when the hosts of the Persian Xerxes were thrust huc from the soil of Greece never to return. It bears upon its coils the names of the thirty-one Greek cities which fought for freedom, and there is still to be seen, in-scribed in slightly larger characters than the rest, the name of the Tenians, who, as Herodotus tells us, succeeded in proving to the satisfaction of their sin-ter states that they deserved inclusion in so honour-able a memorial The Intory of this column from the fifth century before the Chri.stun era down to the present time is to be read in a long succession of Greek, Roman, metU&val, ami modern historians; and as late as the beginning of the eighteenth century the three heads of the serpents were still in their place. But even in ttn mutilated state there is per-haps no relic of antiquity xvhich can vie in interest with this column, associated as it was in the day of its fashioning with Pausanias ami Tln*wi*4oi'le»i, with Xerxes and with Marclonius. We have then to think of it standing for seven centuries in the holiest place of all Hellas, the shrine of Apollo at Delphi, There it was surmounted by a golden tripod, on which sat the

priestess who uttered the oracles which,
in important
crises, prompted the policy and quietude
the development of the cities of Greece?. The column
in hollow,
and It is possible that the mephitic
exhalations,
which are supposed to have stupefied them⁴
when she was by the mounted
up